

Shelby County Election Commission

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For Immediate Release

Shelby County Election Commissioners to Consider Second Round of Precinct Consolidations

Mar. 3, 2015 (Memphis, Tenn.) During a committee meeting Wednesday at 4 p.m., Shelby County Election Commissioners will look at consolidating a second group of precincts.

Commissioners are hoping potentially affected voters will attend the committee meeting Wednesday, during which the matter will be discussed, before being put to a vote at the regular commission meeting on Mar. 18 at 4 p.m. Both meetings will take place at the SCEC Operations Center located at 980 Nixon Drive.

The first in a series of meetings was held Feb. 4 during which SCEC commissioners considered one of two groups of consolidations, some of which were voted upon and approved at the Feb. 18 SCEC monthly meeting. Others were held over for further consideration and will be discussed again at Wednesday's committee meeting.

Richard Holden, administrator of elections at SCEC, said the first meeting was very productive. "We had a good turnout from members of various communities. We are hoping the meeting Wednesday will be equally, if not more successful," he said. "Having voters who live in the areas that were affected was extremely helpful and allowed commissioners to make decisions based on that input." The goal of consolidating the precincts is to better serve voters, because having fewer precincts will improve the quality of election officials at each polling place, Holden explained.

Tennessee state law mandates that each precinct contain no more than 6,000 registered voters. In Shelby County, some of the current precincts have as few as 322 voters. Only voters in smaller precincts, which may be consolidated with larger ones, would be affected. Voters in the group of smaller precincts would have a new polling place.

For more information about precinct numbers that may be affected by the proposed consolidations, visit www.shelbyvote.com and click on **Precinct Consolidations and Proposals** and click **March 2015** for a complete listing. The list also contains information about previously proposed precinct consolidations that were held over for further review from the Feb. 4 meeting.

All voters affected by a precinct location change will receive a letter of explanation and an updated voter registration card by mail.